



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH
January 2004

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant deaths and disabilities in North Dakota and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of infants are enhanced when expectant mothers are aware of the risk of birth defects, and seek regular prenatal care and adopt a healthy lifestyle before and during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, taking folic acid, a B-vitamin, each day before becoming pregnant and in the early weeks of pregnancy can reduce a woman's risk of giving birth to a child with birth defects; and

WHEREAS, monitoring birth defects helps identify ways of preventing future birth defects and of assuring that affected children receive necessary health care; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 2004, **BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH** in North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State